

CUSTOMER NO.
34456

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed January 9, 2006, the Specification was objected to, claims 1-7 were objected to based on informalities in claim 1, claims 1-7 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13, and 16-20 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 4,906,871 ("Iida"), claims 5, 6, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iida in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,864,736 ("Guedon"), claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iida in view of Principles of CMOS VLSI Design: A Systems Perspective, 2nd edition, pages 207-213 ("Weste"), and claims 22 and 23 were objected to.

In response thereto, Applicants amend the Specification and claims 1, 8, 17, cancel claims 21-23, and respectfully request the reconsideration of claims 1-20 and the allowance thereof, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

1. *Objection to the Specification*

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation "said first and second transistors are characterized as having an oxide stress voltage less than said first voltage" in claims 5 and 14. Since claims 5 and 14 are original claims, Applicants amend the Specification to include this language, thus giving claims 5 and 14 verbatim support in the Specification.

2. *Objection to the Claims for Informalities*

Claims 1-7 were objected to because of informalities in claim 1, lines 3 and 7. Applicants have amended claim 1 accordingly.

3. *Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph*

Claims 1-7 and 21 were rejected for the recitation of "low-voltage transistor" in claim 1, lines 3 and 7. By this amendment Applicants delete the phrase "low-voltage transistor" in lines 3 and 7.

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4. *Rejection of Claims 1-20 over Various Prior Art*

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13, and 16-20 were rejected over Iida, claims 5, 6, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iida in view of Guedon, and claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iida in view of Weste. The Examiner indicated that claims 21-23 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness set forth above with respect to claim 21.

By this amendment, Applicants amend base claims 1, 8, and 17 to include the limitations of claims 21-23, respectively, and cancel claims 21-23. Thus, claims 1, 8, and 17 are now allowable. Applicants note that remaining claims 2-7, 9-16, and 18-20 are allowable for at least the reasons that their base claims are allowable.

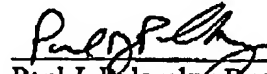
CUSTOMER NO.
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Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw all of the rejections in light of the above remarks and to issue a Notice of Allowance for the present Application. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

3/9/06

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